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**Wincanton Rural District Council.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

For the Year Ending 31st December, 1945.

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WINCANTON,  
SOMERSET,  
July, 1946.

# TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WINCANTON.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1945.

## 1.—General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	64,540
Population (1945)	...	...	16,300
Number of inhabited houses (1931)	...	...	4,361
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	...	...	4,385
Rateable Value (31st March, 1945)	...	...	£76,188
Net Product of Penny Rate	...	...	£354 3s. 2d.

## 2.—Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

### BIRTHS.

		Males.	Females.	
Live Births	Total	129	131	Birth Rate 16.1 per 1000
	Legitimate	112	116	
	Illegitimate	17	15	
	Total	3	5	
Stillbirths	Legitimate	2	4	Birth Rate 0.46 per 1000
	Illegitimate	1	1	
	Total	3	5	

### DEATHS.

	Total	Males.	Females.	
Death from all causes	227	116	111	Death Rate 11.4 per 1000

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

(a) from sepsis	...	...	nil.
(b) from other causes	...	...	2.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

	Males.	Females.
Total	7	6
Legitimate	5	4
Illegitimate	2	2

Deaths of Infants under one week	...	...	...	5
„ „ from one to four weeks (inclusive)	...	...	...	1
„ „ from one to six months	...	...	...	6
„ „ from six to twelve months	...	...	...	1
Total				13



Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
„ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	nil

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 227, compared with 225 in 1944.

The chief causes of Death were :—

Old Age 32. Heart and Circulatory Diseases 57. Cancer 37. Cerebral Hæmorrhage 32.

In these four “ Causes of Death ”—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 11.

„ „ „ „ „ „ 81 „ 85 „ 30.

„ „ „ „ „ „ 86 „ 90 „ 17.

„ „ over the age of 90 were 5.

A total of 93 or 40.96 per cent. of the total Deaths.

### 3.—Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

DISEASE.				Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Erysipelas	....	...	..	1	nil	nil
Diphtheria	...	...	..	2	2	nil
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	8	4	nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	1	nil
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	..	6	nil	13
Dysentery	...	...	...	10	nil	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	49	nil	nil
Malaria	...	...	...	1	nil	nil
Acute Polio-myelitis	...	...	....	1	1	nil
Measles	...	...	...	231	3	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	nil	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	...	...	...	1	nil	nil
Tuberculosis	...	....	...	14	nil	11
(a) Respiratory	...	...	..	10		8
(b) Non-respiratory	...	...	...	4		3

#### *Ophthalmia Neonatorum.*

Notified	Cases Treated		Vision	Vision	Total	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital	Unimpaired	Impaired	Blindness	
1	—	1	1	—	—	—

The following School was closed for Infectious Disease—

Horsington for Influenza in January and February.

#### 4.—Causes of Sickness.

Measles and Whooping Cough were again somewhat in evidence throughout the District. The type of both diseases was mild, but there was one death from measles.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild type and there were no deaths.

Ten cases of Dysentery were notified during the year, these were of the Sonn  type and although most of the cases were mild, there were 2 deaths attributed to this disease. Most of the cases occurred in the Nursery School at Yarlington House, and although a considerable amount of investigation was carried out it was found impossible to ascertain the source of the outbreak.

#### 5.—Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospital and other Institutions available in the District.

##### A.—Professional Nursing in the Home.

(1) *General*.—There are 9 nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district.

(2) *For Infectious Diseases*.—Some of the cases of infectious diseases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

##### B.—Midwives.

There are 9 certified midwives practising in the district.

##### C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres.

In Wincanton there is one Tuberculosis Dispensary provided and staffed by the County Council.

##### D.—Hospitals available for the District.

(1) *Tuberculosis*.—One at Wincanton.

(2) *Fever*.—One at Wincanton, to which the following cases were admitted during the year—

Disease.	Number Admitted.	Number Died.
Scarlet Fever	4	nil
Diphtheria	2	nil
Measles	3	nil
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	nil
Abortus Fever	1	nil
Vincent's Angina	2	nil
Venereal Disease	1	nil
	—	—
	15	0
	—	—



- (3) *Other*.—There is one Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.

There is one Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital,” for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases; in addition, there are three wards available for Maternity Cases.

There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee.

#### **E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children.**

The only Institutions for any of the above are the Public Assistance Institution and Rodber House, Wincanton (for boys only), which are under the control of the Public Assistance Committee.

#### **F.—Ambulance Facilities.**

- (1) *For Infectious Cases*.—A motor ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital at Wincanton for the collection and removal of infectious cases.

- (2) *For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases*.—A motor ambulance, built and equipped by the Wincanton Rural District Council, is kept at Messrs. The Wincanton Transport and Engineering Co., Wincanton, Tel. 2321.

#### **G.—Government Evacuation Scheme. Institutions for Evacuated Children.**

The Number of Evacuated Children in the Wincanton Rural District was :—

1. At the commencement of 1945 - unaccompanied 191.
2. At the end of 1945 - unaccompanied 13.

The following properties ceased to be used as a hostel or sick bay during the year :—

1. No. 60, High Street, Wincanton, on the 24th April, 1945.
2. No. 75, High Street, Wincanton, on the 31st August, 1945.
3. Tout Hill House, Wincanton (a) as a sick bay on the 23rd April, 1945.  
(b) as a hostel on the 5th September, 1945.
4. The Princess Christian Day Nursery, North Cadbury, on the 7th October, 1945.

No. 15, Balsam Park, Wincanton, was still used as a hostel at the end of 1945 with a weekly average of 5 children.

The Nursery School at Yarlington House was still in use at the end of 1945, accommodating 30 children.

#### **H.—Scabies.**

There have been very few cases of Scabies during the year. These have been treated at home by their own doctor. There has been no necessity to have recourse to the Scabies Order 1941.



## 6.—Laboratory Work.

Examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory at Taunton, and considerable use of this laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is kept at the Isolation Hospital, Wincanton.

## 7.—Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Public Health Department consists of The Chief Sanitary Inspector, an additional Sanitary Inspector, two Assistant Sanitary Inspectors, two pupils, all whole-time Officers, a Public Health Inspector, and myself, a part-time Officer.

There are also 2 Health Visitors in the District.

## 8.—Water Supplies.

**Templecombe.** A 1,600 yard length of 6in. rising main has been laid from Bradley Head to the Templecombe rising main.

**Milborne Port.** A new Engine House and Electric Pump, capacity 10,000 g.p.h., have been provided at Bradley Head.

**Penselwood.** An extension to the Engine House, and a New Pump, capacity 8,000 g.p.h., have been provided at Penselwood.

A length of 700 yards of collecting main has been laid to new springs at Combe Bottom.

A length of 500 yards of defective main at West Hill, Wincanton, has been re-laid.

**North Brewham.** A length of 250 yards of collecting main has been re-laid, and eight inspection chambers re-built.

**Charlton Horethorne.** New collection pipes have been laid to an existing spring.

Shortages have been experienced in parts of the Castle Cary, Charlton Horethorne, Charlton Musgrove, Queen Camel, Penselwood and District and Sutton Montis supplies.

## Post War Proposals.

The Engineers' proposals for the enlargement and linking of the water supplies, have been submitted to the County Council, who could not except them, as the estimated requirement was deemed greatly exaggerated, and who required evidence of shortage. On submission to the Ministry of Health, however, the Council were informed that the estimated requirement could be accepted, but that the inclusion of so many small supplies was not advised. The Council have adopted the Ministry's suggestion that they should employ a geologist in an attempt to find an additional large source.

## 9.—Drainage and Sewerage.

There have been no sewer extensions during the year.

The majority of the first instalment of the work necessary to improve the sewerage works at Henstridge, has been completed.



## 2. Post War Proposals.

The following schemes are included in the first priority group :—

Wincanton Sewage Works.

Milborne Port (Infiltration).

Milborne Port Improvement of Works.

Templecombe Sewerage Scheme.

Henstridge Sewage Works, Second Instalment.

Holton Sewage Works.

North Cheriton Sewerage Scheme.

Penselwood Sewage Works Improvement.

Pitcombe Lisbury Extension (when necessary).

Bayford Connection to Wincanton Sewers.

Sparkford Sewage Works Improvements.

The estimated cost of these Schemes is £51,000.

It is expected that only the first item will be started during the coming year, estimated cost £25,000.

## Camping Sites.

No Camping Sites in this District have been registered.

Generally the only cases of Camping which occurred were cases of 2 or 3 days duration.

No special difficulties in connection with Camping are anticipated.

## 10.—Housing.

### New Houses.

1. Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of year ... 628.

2. Houses erected by	Type	No.	Av. cost pr. House	Av. rent Incl. or Excl. of Rates.	If subsidised : <i>Subsidy per yr.</i>		Period of Subsidy
					L.A.	Govt.	
(a) Local Authority		Nil.					
(b) Private Enterprise		Nil.					
3. Houses in course of erection by							
(a) Local Authority	Parlour	4	£1125 to £1200				
(b) Private Enterprise	Non-parlour (3 bedrooms)	4					
	Parlour (3 bedrooms)	2			No.	No.	
	Bungalows	2					

4. Programme of New Houses to be erected by Local Authority :—

(a) First Year ... 120.

The details of the programmes for subsequent years have not been decided upon, but it has been agreed to build to the full extent of the labour available.



## 11.—Ministry of Health Enquiries.

On July 26th, 1945, a Ministry of Health Enquiry was held at the Council Offices with reference to the application of the Rural District Council for a loan to cover the cost of new sewage works at Wincanton. These were approved by the Ministry and the loan granted.

On September 14th, 1945, a Ministry of Health Enquiry was held at the Council Offices with reference to a Compulsory Purchase Order issued by the Wincanton Rural District Council for the acquisition of certain lands in Balsam Fields to erect Council Houses thereon. After the Public Enquiry an inspection was made of the above and alternative sites. After consideration the Ministry confirmed the Compulsory Purchase Order.

## 12.—Inspection and Supervision of Food.

### (a) *Milk Supply.*

(a) Total Number of Registered Dairy Farms	...	...	576
(b) Number of Retailers	...	...	39
(c) Number of Producer-Retailers included in (b)	...	...	33
(d) Number of Licensed pasteurising plants	...	...	1
(e) Number of Heat-Treatment plants not included in (d)	...	...	2

### (b) *Meat Supervision.*

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES—

Licensed	...	...	2	
Formerly registered—now unused—Application for licence pending	...	...	14	Total 16.

Name of any in use under Ministry of Food :—

South Western Dairies,  
Bacon Factory, Bruton, Somerset.

Knackers Yards. Licensed.	...	...	...	3.
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### *River Pollution.*

A complaint of pollution arose at Sparkford, but it was of very short duration, and its cause could not be determined.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary and Public Health Inspectors are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. E. COULSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*



COUNCIL OFFICES,

WINCANTON, Somerset,

May, 1946.

T. E. COULSON, Esq.,

Balsam Gate,

WINCANTON, Somerset.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

**WATER SUPPLIES.** With the few exceptions given below, the water supply of the area and its several parts has been satisfactory.

The shortages in the public supplies occurred at *Charlton Horethorne*, due to a reduction in the spring yield in the period August to November; at *Charlton Musgrove*, due to a reduction in the spring yield and to leakages in August and September; at *Sparkford* and *Queen Camel* where the supply was inadequate in summer and autumn, and where pressure was inadequate at Camel Hill very frequently; at *Bratton* (Penselwood system) and at two or three points on the *Castle Cary* system, where heavy consumption at certain periods of the day reduced pressure considerably.

At *Corton Denham*, although no shortages were reported, the complicated private supplies cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

At *Sutton Montis*, shortages and low pressure on the private system were experienced during the summer and autumn.

The supplies have generally been satisfactory in quality.

Forty-nine samples of the public supplies have been the subject of bacteriological analysis with the following results :—

B.Coli absent	...	...	41
30—100 B.Coli per litre	...	...	7
100—1000 per litre	...	...	1

On investigation, it was judged that the eight unsatisfactory samples were the result of surface contamination, and in the worst case at *North Bruham*, the necessary action was taken.

Samples of three private supplies have been analysed, with these results :—

B.Coli per litre—

Less than 10	...	1
100—1000	...	1
1000—10,000	...	1

The extremely unfit sample was taken from the estate supply at *Charlton Horethorne*. This supply system is generally in bad condition, and, as a result, unsatisfactory conditions prevail in certain parts of the village. Users were advised to boil this water. There has been no substantial improvement, but the public supply was extended to serve a small area at Pins Hill.



The water supplies liable to have plumbo-solvent action are those at South Brewham, Charlton Musgrove and, to a lesser degree, Penselwood.

At Charlton Musgrove the water is passed over Magnesite.

The Penselwood water includes one hard water, which, when mixed with the remainder, reduces the acidity. A liming plant is available for use when necessary.

No treatment is undertaken at Brewham, where it is believed no lead pipes are in use.

In all three districts the use of lead is prohibited.

Ten samples of the public supplies have been submitted for chemical analysis, with the following results :—

	pH.	Parts per 100,000 Hardness.
Castle Cary ...	7.2	35
Charlton Musgrove ..	6.8	35
Penselwood, Combeside ..	6.6	6.5
„ Combe Bottom ...	6.6	7.0
„ Rowe Farm ....	7.4	20.5
„ (combined) ..	6.8	11.5
Pitcombe ...	7.2	31
Sparkford and Queen Camel—		
Hayter Spring	7.4	36
(Four Springs) ...	7.6	25
Templecombe ...	7.4	33

*Chlorination.* Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton) and of the Castle Cary supplies, has been maintained throughout the year.

#### *Supplies from public mains.*

The numbers of houses supplied from public water mains were :—

Direct to houses	4,260	-	estimated population	14,500
By standpipe	40	-	„ „	120

The number supplied in pipes from private systems direct to the houses was 400 (population 1,390).

#### *WATER SUPPLIES & SEWERAGE ACT, 1944.*

On the 6th February, I reported to the Council on a survey of the water supplies of the district. This showed that, despite the satisfactory feature that 94 % of dwellings were supplied by pipe, much augmentation of supplies would be necessary to meet an increasing domestic and agricultural demand.

I reported in favour of the elimination of all the major private systems, by acquisition, or by continual extension of the public mains.

I am not in favour of the policy of reinforcing a private supply from public mains, as this has the effect of permitting a private profit to be made out of public services financed by the rate-payer.

During the year, contact has been made with the War Agricultural Executive Committee when discussion centred round the supply to farms. It was suggested that this demand was likely to amount to a total in the neighbourhood of 730,000 gallons per day.



## SEWERAGE.

On the 17th January I presented a report on a survey of the position in all parishes having regard to the effect of the Water Supplies and Sewerage Act.

The report, which received the general approval of the Council, envisaged the extension of public sewerage facilities to almost all the Parishes, as set out in the following priority groups :—

### MOST URGENT NEED.

1. WINCANTON SEWAGE WORKS, Milborne Port (Infiltration), TEMPLECOMBE SEWAGE SCHEME.
2. HENSTRIDGE (Improvement of Works), Holton, Milborne Port (Additions to Works), North Cheriton, Penselwood (Improvements), Pitcombe (Lisbury), Bayford, Sparkford (Improvements). £51,000.

### LESS URGENT.

Ansford (Station Road), Charlton Horethorne, Charlton Musgrove, Henstridge (Yenston), North Cadbury, Galhampton, Pitcombe, South Cadbury (Sutton Montis). £30,000.

### NECESSARY.

Bruham, Compton Pauncefoote, Corton Denham, Cucklington, Horsington, Lovington, North Barrow, South Cadbury. £27,000.

### DESIRABLE, BUT NOT IMMEDIATELY PRACTICABLE.

1. Templecombe (Throop), Alford, Bruton (Wyke), Castle Cary (Clanville), Charlton Horethorne (Stowell), Compton Pauncefoote (Blackford), Horsington (South Cheriton), Penselwood, Pitcombe (Hadsphen), Shepton Montague, South Barrow.
2. Bratton, Maperton, Yarlinton. £24,000.

The exact order would be determined after detailed surveys in which regard would be had to the result of the Housing Survey.

The Council also adopted the principle that in order to avoid the construction of large numbers of cesspools or septic tank systems, it should be their policy to construct short lengths of sewers and small sewage purification plants to serve groups of houses, wherever this was practicable and desirable.

During the year repairs to sewers have been carried out in Bruton, South Barrow, Sutton Montis, Templecombe and Wincanton.

In Bruton and Castle Cary the sewage works have functioned satisfactorily.

*Henstridge.* Most of the work of repair to the sewage works has been completed, and the efficiency of the plant has been materially improved.

*Holton.* A contract has been let for a short sewer extension, but the work has not been started.



*Milborne Port.* A contract has been let for the works of repair to the filter walls, and in a defective sewer, but the work has not yet been started. Despite this, the works have functioned satisfactorily.

*Sparkford.* The sewage works have also been generally satisfactory, although certain alterations must be undertaken as soon as practicable.

*Templecombe.* An Engineer has been instructed to prepare a Scheme for the proposed new sewage works and system.

A contract has been let for a sewer extension at Slades Hill, designed to alleviate a serious nuisance.

*Wincanton.* The proposals for the new sewage works have been approved by the Council, and, following a Public Inquiry by the Ministry of Health, by that Ministry. The contract drawings and specifications are in course of preparation.

At the existing (and most unsatisfactory) works, better arrangements for the emptying of the tanks have been made.

As a result of a defect in an old uncharted sewer, serious cellar flooding occurred in North Street necessitating works of repair. All the sewers exposed were found to be in extremely bad condition, leaky, and with inadequate cover. The works of repair, which are nearing completion, include relaying of sewers, involving excavations in hard rock, the provision of a manhole, underpinning of a collapsing retaining wall, and the laying of a separate storm water sewer intended to be the commencement of a separate system in North Street.

The general condition of the main sewer indicated that further replacement may become necessary at any time.

*Straw Composting.* I have paid a visit to the Andover Sewage Works where by the courtesy of the Borough Surveyor, Mr. R. S. Offord, B.Sc., A.M. Inst., C.E., M. & G.E., A.M.T.P.I., I was given full information concerning the methods employed in the conversion of wet sludge and Straw into an excellent manure. Successful though this was at Andover, I had to advise the Council that this method was unlikely to be successful in this district, although when an opportunity occurred it would be wise to try it out.

*Housing.* The war recently ended has left in its wake an immense housing problem. Not only has there been a great deterioration of existing houses due to labour shortage, combined with a complete absence of new building, but also an unmistakable indication on the part of the general public to tolerate no longer the unsatisfactory housing conditions of the pre-war years. General uncertainty during the war and after has not rendered easier the problems of planning and of acquisition of land.

At the end of the year, housing sites had been acquired in the following Parishes :—

Bruton, Sparkford, and Templecombe.

Negotiations are in progress for sites in other Parishes.

The erection of four houses of traditional type has been commenced in Sparkford.



**PLANNING.**

Arising from enquiries by the County Council in connection with a survey of schools, I have made suggestions concerning re-housing policy, in relation to movements of population.

The substance of my recommendation in this connection was that to obtain and retain sufficient labour, especially young workers in rural districts, in order to maintain a healthy agricultural industry, it would be necessary to erect the new houses in larger communities thus creating units capable of being provided with modern amenities in a reasonable time, such amenities to include recreation grounds, community centres, shops and schools. This would inevitably mean the gradual decay of some of the smaller villages and hamlets.

The Council, having regard to the special needs of dairy farms, however, could not accept this principle, holding that to maintain a healthy agriculture, it would be necessary to build in all villages, and provide sewerage and other amenities as quickly as practicable.

**SOMERSET HOUSING COMMITTEE.**

Full support has been given to the Somerset Advisory Housing Committee. During the year I have attended three meetings of that Committee, and five meetings of Sub-Committees.

The Committee have adopted a housing standard which they hope will, in due course, have the force of law. They have also adopted a County standard, which was intended to apply in general to reconstructions under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

**HOUSING SURVEY.**

The Housing Survey started with great promise, but staffing difficulties have checked progress to some extent. The survey has been arranged so as to inspect at this stage, the worst houses. When these have been completed, the remainder of the houses will be dealt with Parish by Parish. There has been much difficulty in "categorising" the houses owing to the absence of legal backing of a reasonable standard, to the controlled rents and to the high cost of repair work. For these reasons, a number of houses, which have been regarded as saveable and included as repairable under Section 9, would, under existing legislation have to be dealt with under Section 11, of the Housing Act, as houses irreparable at a reasonable cost.

The results of the survey to the end of the year are set out in the following table :—

		Charlton Horethorne	Henstridge	Maperton	North Cheriton	Templecombe	Wincanton
Estimated No. of Houses. £16 R.V.		116	254	33	35	168	291
Dealt with in pre-war programme		8	26	1	3	6	—
Total No. to be inspected	...	108	228	32	32	162	291
No. fully inspected	...	35	59	13	11	24	152
Adequate records available	...	2	14	—	—	8	27
Found fit	...	—	2	—	—	2	11
Scheduled under :—							
Housing Act 1936. Section 9.							
Minor Defects	...	2	5	1	2	1	38
Serious Defects	...	3	4	1	—	1	8
Housing (R.W.) Acts	...	1	2	—	—	2	—
Low Standard (Deferment)	...	2	10	3	—	8	41
Housing Act 1936. Section 11.							
Housing (R.W.) Acts	...	15	7	7	4	2	1
Section 11/12 (Unfit)	...	12	11	1	5	8	24
Section 25 (Clearance)	...	2	32	—	—	8	56
Replacement need	...	8	30	—	—	24	100



In addition, 156 houses have been inspected in various Parishes, but these have not yet been categorised.

With the return of evacuees, there was a reduction of overcrowding, but towards the end of the year, while the general decline continued slowly, several instances of serious overcrowding have occurred.

The accurate position in relation to statutory overcrowding and to unsatisfactory "crowding" conditions will be revealed as the survey proceeds.

### *REQUISITIONING.*

Under powers given to the Council under Regulation 51 I have dealt with 16 houses. In 9 cases, the necessary works of repair have been completed. In the remaining cases, the survey has been completed, and the work of repair is in hand.

At the end of the year 47 houses remained under requisition or hire for housing purposes.

Many farm service cottages remain empty month after month, but the War Agricultural Executive Committee have decided that these must remain available for farm workers.

It has been found that, despite bad conditions, there is a reluctance on the part of families to take remote or isolated houses.

I have reported to the Council on the possibilities of the conversion of a disused hotel into flats and of the adaptation of eight concrete built Army huts as temporary dwellings.

Forty unfit houses have been licensed for temporary use as dwellings.

### *HOUSING ACTS.*

Statutory action has been limited to the making of one Demolition Order in respect of a dangerous house which was the subject of an undertaking not to use, which had not been fulfilled, and to the service of one Notice under Section 11, when an undertaking to repair was accepted, and of two Notices under Section 9, which were complied with.

Six houses have been made fit, including the cancellation of two Undertakings not to use.

One case of bed bug infestation and two cases of flea infestation have been dealt with and remedied.

### *PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.*

112 nuisances in connection with sewers, drains and sanitary conveniences, etc., have been abated.

Repairs have been carried out at nine houses.

Ten earth closets or vaults have been converted to water closets.

*Notifiable Disease.* The usual disinfection of premises has been carried out after cases of infectious disease. Bedding, etc., has been disinfected at the Isolation Hospital, Wincanton.



### *House Refuse.*

House refuse collections are made weekly in Bruton and Wincanton, fortnightly in Ansford and Castle Cary, and monthly in Henstridge, Milborne Port, Queen Camel and Templecombe. The methods of collection and of disposal remain unsatisfactory.

A limited quantity of hard core is collected by the salvage van in Parishes in which house refuse is not collected.

No progress has been made in connection with the proposed house refuse scheme covering the whole area.

### *Salvage.*

The salvage results continue to be discouraging. The cost of collection this year has been disproportionately high, owing to the inability to obtain a driver until late in the year.

The sales results were as follows, the corresponding figures for 1944 being given in brackets :—

			Tons		Value	
Paper	....	....	79.05	(98.4)	531.10	(650.0)
Iron	...	...	12.50	(23.6)	26.35	(56.8)
Tins	...	...	114.30	(8.57)	112.80	(112.4)
Non-ferrous metals	....	....	—	(2.2)	—	(28.5)
Textiles	...	...	7.10	(11.5)	70.40	(125.5)
Bottles	...	...	4.65	—	6.10	—
Bones	...	...	8.30	(13.9)	42.40	(66.2)
Rubber	...	...	—	(4.5)	—	(10.2)
Miscellaneous	....	....	—	(.7)	—	(11.6)
			<hr/>		<hr/>	
Total			225.90	(240.5)	789.15	(1061.2)
			<hr/>		<hr/>	

In the County tables prepared by the Hon. Assistant District Adviser, the Council held the following positions :

Paper—6th. Textiles—7th. Bones—4th. Sales Value—4th.

### *MILK SUPPLIES.*

#### *Milk and Dairies Order.*

Owing to difficulties in the supply of labour and materials, action has been generally limited to informal action to enforce cleanliness in milk production.

There has, as a result, been an increase in the number of structural improvements to premises, particularly in regard to concreting of floors and yards.

Compliance with the structural requirements of the Order has been obtained in fourteen cases.



### *Designated Milks, etc.*

The number of T.T. licenses increased from 67 at the beginning to 76 at the end of the year while the number of Accredited licences decreased from 95 to 94.

A license to pasteurise milk was granted to Messrs. Dried Milk Products Ltd.

One licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested milk has been granted.

Samples have been taken with the following results :—

T.T. 291, of which 202 were satisfactory, a percentage of 69.

Acc. 427, of which 275 were satisfactory, a percentage of 64.

PASTEURISED. 14, all of which were pasteurised satisfactorily although four showed contamination after pasteurisation.

HEAT TREATED. 13, of which 10 were satisfactory.

MILK tested for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli :—

ACCREDITED. 38, of which 6 contained Tubercle Bacilli.

UNDESIGNATED. 13, of which nil contained Tubercle Bacilli.

### *INSPECTION OF FOOD.*

All pigs slaughtered at the one slaughter-house still in operation have been inspected. Of the 7,151 pigs slaughtered there have been condemned 16 carcasses, 11 parts of carcasses, 411 heads, 207 plucks and part plucks, totalling  $2\frac{1}{4}$  tons. Tuberculosis, which was the principal cause of condemnation, was found in 5.8 % of the animals.

Sixty-eight lbs. of imported pork were also condemned.

At Buffer Depots, 1.88 tons of food have been examined, 1.41 tons being condemned.

At retailers premises 0.73 tons of food has been condemned.

### *SHOPS ACT.*

Action under this Act has been limited and this restriction must necessarily continue until the housing position has considerably improved. Defects at one shop and café were remedied.

### *RODENT CONTROL.*

Justification of the Council's policy in making no charge for rodent destruction is once again proved by the results of the year's working, which are given in the following table :—

No. of Infestations Treated.	Baits Used.	Poisons Used.	Est'd kill.	Bodies recovered.	No. infestations cleared.
Reservoir 3	Sausage Rusk or Bread	Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic	550	70	—
Major 62			4,400	949	23
Minor 166			2,410	452	150

*PLANS.*

102 plans have been presented. Of these, 95 were approved, 6 disapproved, and 1 deferred for further consideration.

*LICENSING OF BUILDING WORK.*

Up to August 1st the Council were only concerned with Certificates of Essentiality, but after that date the Council became a Licensing Authority for all work costing not more than £100, and for all work involving the provision of additional units of housing accommodation.

The following table gives the result of action taken during the period August 1st to December 31st :—

No. of applications	...	...	...	247
Licences granted	...	...	187	
Referred to Ministry of Works	...	...	19	
Refused	...	..	10	
Withdrawn	...	...	6	
Under consideration	...	...	25	
			—	247

In a number of applications, the amount of work was reduced after discussion with the applicant.

The licences granted included licences for fifteen additional units of housing accommodation (including 10 new dwellings) estimated to cost £12,950. The remaining 172 licences involved an estimated cost of approximately £8,500.

Contact has been made with the Licences Officers of Yeovil, and Sherborne R.D.C's., to secure as much uniformity as possible.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

R. G. GRAY.



CASTLE CARY,  
January 23rd, 1946.

To T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.  
Medical Officer of Health,  
WINCANTON.

Sir,  
I beg to submit my Report for the year ended the 31st December, 1945, as follows :—

*Factories Act, 1937.*

The Bakehouses have been inspected periodically and where necessary verbal notices have been given to the occupiers to carry out limewashing and repainting.

*Shops Act, 1934, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.*

Unfit foods detected when visiting the shops have been referred to the Salvage Officer who has collected them for salvaging. When materials and labour become more available many of the food shops and stores need renovating and a better supply of water (both hot and cold) made available for the use of the employees in the shops. Some shops require a more efficient method of heating.

*Infestation Order, 1943.*

The Council's Rodent Officer has during the year been successful in clearing a very large number of premises in the district from the vermin, but unfortunately more rats come in from the fields, especially during the winter months. Some of the farm premises have been dealt with by the Pest Officer appointed by the Somerset Agricultural War Executive Committee.

*Public Health Act, 1936.*

Complaints which I have received under this Act I have referred to the Chief Sanitary Inspector who has dealt with them.

*Accommodation for Persons Inadequately Housed.*

I have sent particulars of situation of apparently void houses to the Clerk to the Rural District Council which I have observed from time to time and he has dealt with them.

*Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, 1926—43.*

I have visited the houses and collected the annual certificates from the owners of reconstructed houses situate in the Parishes of Alford, Ansford, Bratton Seymour, Brewham, Bruton, Castle Cary, Charlton Horethorne, Corton Denham, Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington, Horsington, Henstridge, Lovington, Maperton, Milborne Port, North Cadbury, Penselwood, Pitcombe, Sparkford, South Barrow, South Cadbury, Sutton Montis, Stoke Trister, Wincanton and Yarlinton, and have forwarded the certificates to the Clerk to the R.D.C. The conditions under which the grants were made are being generally observed. It appears to be unfortunate that these Acts are not being continued as so many owners were enabled by the aid of the grants to have their cottages reconstructed and reconditioned which otherwise would in all probability have had to be demolished as unfit for human habitation.



*Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.*

The River Brue which runs through Bruton is in a very congested condition between the Abbots Bridge and Lake Bridge and harbours rats under the overhanging growth in the banks. A Garden wall and bank has fallen into the river causing an obstruction and flooding of a vegetable garden when the water is high. The Somerset Rivers Catchment Board under whose jurisdiction the river is, has been notified of the obstruction and the nuisance caused by the rats.

*Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.*

Owners of agricultural lands abutting on Temple Lane, Templecombe, having petitioned the Rural District Council for a better supply of water to their lands, the Council's Waterworks Manager prepared an estimate to extend the water main from the Yew Tree corner at a cost of £1,600, the owners to contribute two Pounds per acre towards the capital cost of the scheme. Acting with the approval of the Water Supplies Committee I approached all the owners concerned but failed to obtain sufficient promises of subscriptions to enable the work to proceed.

A considerable area of the land has been war ploughed but now sown down to a three year ley and the Cultivation Officer of the Somerset Agricultural War Executive Committee has expressed the opinion that a better supply of water is necessary to enable the land to produce its best results. At present the land is watered chiefly by a contaminated stream and polluted ponds, the latter frequently becoming dry during the summer and autumn. These conditions do not of course conduce towards the production of clean milk.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E. J. HAINE PADFIELD,

*Inspector.*







